

State of Alaska FY2003 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Public Safety Enforcement and Investigative Services Unit Component Budget Summary

Component: Enforcement and Investigative Services Unit

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Component Mission

The mission of the Division of Fish & Wildlife Protection is to protect the state's fish and wildlife resources.

Component Services Provided

- Perform primary police service in remote communities without other Trooper resources.
- Perform wildlife law enforcement patrols and investigations throughout Alaska's 586,000 square miles of landmass, 36,000 miles of coastline and 336,000 square miles of expanded Federal jurisdiction in the Bering Sea.
- Maintain 36 Fish and Wildlife Protection posts strategically located throughout Alaska to assure optimum Trooper presence and coverage.
- Provide Boating Safety enforcement.
- Participate in Search and Rescue missions statewide.
- Investigate and apprehend criminal offenders.
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Component Goals and Strategies

The Division's purpose is to protect all State fish and game resources by a combination of uniform Trooper patrols, covert investigations and educational and public awareness programs.

Increased Trooper presence in remote Alaska, where little other law enforcement exists, improves public safety and support of State government in rural communities and cultures.

While patrolling a confusing array of sport, commercial, personal use or subsistence fisheries and commercial sport or subsistence hunting seasons, FWP Troopers are fully commissioned law enforcement officers who independently recognize and act upon many other public safety emergencies and concerns.

Key Component Issues for FY2002 – 2003

ENFORCEMENT COVERAGE

Last session, the Legislature funded two of ten requested State Trooper positions. The retirements of a large number of pipeline-era Troopers in the last three years has changed the complexion of this agency to a much younger, less experienced corps of State Troopers. While the lower salary structures of these newer Troopers has allowed the Division to fund all authorized positions, it remains well behind in its ability to provide a consistent presence in all important fishing and hunting regions and seasons.

Alaska's vulnerable coastline of 36,000 miles represents 40% of the nation's coastline and almost 89% of the Pacific states' coastline.

- Washington and Oregon, which have just 4,436 miles of tidal shoreline, and ¼ of Alaska's landmass, employ 279 resource law enforcement officers to Alaska's 91 FWP Troopers.
- The Division's patrol area is unrivaled by the remaining states, and is the equivalent in distance from the Carolinas to California and Texas to the Great Lakes. 91 Troopers simply cannot patrol this area effectively and consistently to assure compliance to important conservation laws and regulations.

Considering the economic value of Alaska's wild resources, FWP must apply more law enforcement resources to make certain the management objectives of sustained yield do not fail.

- Over 50 billion pounds of seafood have been harvested during Alaska fisheries in the last 10 years.
- 32% of the nation's total landed volume came from Alaska.
- Alaska's sport fishing annual economy is valued at over \$700 million; hunting \$200 million; and wildlife viewing at \$700 million. In 1991, 196,162 nonresident sport-fishing licenses were sold and in 2000, 280,939 licenses were sold, an increase of 45% in 10 years.
- Sport fishing charter fleets have exploded to accommodate over 450,000 people now fishing in Alaska each year.
- 586,000 square miles of land and 336,000 miles of expanded jurisdiction in the Bering Sea cannot be adequately patrolled with 91 funded Troopers.

PATROL VEHICLE FUEL PRICE HIKES

Current funding levels do not allow for the increased price of vehicle fuel statewide. FY2000, was the first year that the Division paid vehicle fuel costs as a direct cost. In previous years, it was built into the HWCF operating rate. As such, the Division used an estimated cost per vehicle provided by DOT/SEF to budget for its fuel costs. In FY2000, \$98,800 was budgeted in the FWP BRU and \$118,500 was paid, a difference of \$19,700. In FY2001, the division elected not to seek incremental funding in hopes that the fuel prices would go down. \$91,800 was budgeted and present figures report \$135,000 was paid, a difference of \$43,200. Fortunately, the division received supplemental funding for the added costs.

All FWP Troopers in the field need dependable vehicles, aircraft or vessels whichever is appropriate in order to cover their average 7,325 square mile patrol area.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2001

STATEWIDE

In Fiscal Year 2001, the public benefited from a number of Division reorganization steps made during the year. Fish & Wildlife Protection has continued to build upon those changes to improve the ability to fulfill its mission statewide. These changes include:

- The Division augmented local trooper supervision and support in Kodiak by assigning a Lieutenant position to oversee the Kodiak and Dutch Harbor operations. This improved response times to industry-related problems and complaints.
- Two R44 helicopters were deployed to critical locations, one to King Salmon and the other to Palmer to improve enforcement and SAR capabilities in southwest and southcentral Alaska.
- FWP patrols of the Bristol Bay Red Salmon fishery using GPS-equipped vessels and aircraft have improved enforcement of this fishery. Although fishing opportunity has been reduced the last two years, knowledge of where fishermen are relative to closed waters has improved with this technology. This combination of factors has resulted in fewer complaints and citations.
- In excess of 122 information and education presentations, totaling over 330 hours, were delivered to schools, clubs and organizations in FY2001. These proactive measures augmented the enforcement function to help improve the public's resource law knowledge and understanding. They have also fostered and developed productive and helpful relationships with many community groups throughout much of the state. These projects speak well of the Division's efforts to influence sport and commercial resource seasons throughout the state.
- Troopers in western Alaska made 90 village visits and public appearances to provide information and meet with village residents to discuss local problems and issues.
- 24 Trooper Recruits have been trained in the last 12 months offsetting the experience loss of a volume of pipeline-era retirees. This represents almost 30% of the Division's Trooper ranks.

INVESTIGATIONS

The Wildlife Investigations Bureau continues to focus on activity either associated with commercial violations or that assists other detachments. This included investigations in or near the following areas: Kodiak, Homer, Valdez, Petersburg, Anchorage, Soldotna, Aniak, Seward, McGrath, Togiak, Kenai, Glennallen, Glacier Bay, Gustavus, Coldfoot, Kotzebue, Tatitlek, Palmer, Wasilla, Aleknagik, Fairbanks, Anchor Point, Ninilchik, Port Lions, Sitka, Wrangell, Pelican, Angoon, Grant Lake, Oregon, Wyoming and Idaho.

A substantial effort to curtail sportfishing charter logbook violations was undertaken at the request of the Department of Fish and Game. Over 400 violations were documented for delinquent or unsubmitted records.

Other cases involved illegal sale of animal parts, illegal helicopter use, hunting in closed areas, hunting in closed season, waste of big game and taking undersized game. In addition, the Bureau investigated unlicensed guiding activity and charged individuals involved.

ENFORCEMENT

The Division continues to operate on a program-based, highly mobile, and flexible basis, ensuring important areas are patrolled.

The Bristol Bay Red Salmon season continues to be the largest single enforcement program for the Division. During the 2001 season, Troopers investigated 196 incidents, wrote 140 citations and gave 21 warnings. The majority of cases were for fishing in closed waters and for fishing during a closed period.

A commercial crab vessel was cited for illegal operation of pot gear during the 2000 Tanner Crab season. Forfeiture of the value of the catch was \$218,479. The skipper was fined \$15,000.

Another vessel was cited for illegal operation of pot gear during the 2000 Red King Crab season. Forfeiture of value of catch was \$16,550. This skipper was also fined \$15,000. This was also the first case in the Bering Sea where FWP caught fisherman using a time-release device to keep the buoys submerged during the illegal fishing.

King Salmon FWP cited and convicted an out-of-state actor for wanton waste in western Alaska. He was sentenced to 7 days in jail, and had the antlers and his rifle forfeited. The subject had a professional film crew document the hunt and was intending to produce a program later.

The Division continues to emphasize sport fishery enforcement utilizing public feedback and requests. In FY2001, the detection of sport fishing violations remained within 3% of efforts recorded in the previous two fiscal years. Specific patrol emphasis is given to areas of high angler activity such as the Bristol Bay Watershed, Anchorage area, Mat-Su Valley, Kenai Peninsula, and the Yakutat area.

Continued presence at Ship Creek was a priority for "B" Detachment. The monitoring of this area is primarily designed to maintain a reasonable, orderly fishery in the middle of downtown Anchorage. The enforcement presence was maintained at an excellent level with very few complaints received from the public.

Efforts to increase FWP Trooper presence in the Tyonek/Beluga area were successful. Three weekend TDY assignments were accomplished during the height of the resource user activity this summer. Very good contacts were established with local area residents. The comments from local and non-local residents were favorable. Other well-established resource user areas such as Alexander Creek and the Deshka River were patrolled with TDY assignments.

The Kenai sport fish and personnel use fisheries were again the subjects of increased enforcement emphasis with TDY Troopers from Palmer, Cantwell, and Fairbanks used to augment the local effort. The increased enforcement and Trooper presence has been noticed and appreciated by many resource users given the many positive comments received. The additional presence is deemed necessary due to the vast number and locations of fisheries that occur in the relatively short time period.

SEARCH AND RESCUE

Search and rescue responses remain a top priority for the Division. With ever increasing frequency, FWP Troopers are the sole Department representatives in many rural communities and their availability and capability in these emergency situations are critical to the Department's mission.

The R44 helicopter was used to rescue 3 hunters during a storm near Dillingham. Their airplane had blown over and was destroyed, and the victim's tents were torn and blown away.

A super cub was used to locate a lost villager after his boat swamped in a lake north of Dillingham.

King Salmon Troopers along with USCG rescued one person and recovered three bodies from plane wreckage on the Alaska Peninsula.

A recreational boater was rescued by FWP in a patrol skiff after the victim's boat was capsized at a logjam on the Tanana River.

Two major marine vessel accidents occurred in Prince William Sound and were handled by the Valdez Trooper. One fatal watercraft accident occurred when the skipper ran his boat into the shore at high speed. Another investigation occurred when a vessel hit a rock and sank near Valdez Arm spilling a large amount of oil into the water.

The Coldfoot Trooper, summoned to a plane crash in the Brooks Range, landed a PA-18 aircraft on a ridgetop and investigated the crash, recovering the bodies of all four victims.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

- 1) Aeronautics (AS 02)
- 2) Criminal (AS 11)
- 3) Environment (AS 46)
- 4) Fish & Game (AS 16)
- 5) Fish & Game (5 AAC)
- 6) Guide/Outfitting (12 AAC)
- 7) Guide/Outfitting (AS 08)
- 8) Health & Safety (AS 18)
- 9) Limited Entry (20 AAC)
- 10) State Government (AS 44)

Enforcement and Investigative Services Unit

Component Financial Summary

All dollars in thousands

	FY2001 Actuals	FY2002 Authorized	FY2003 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	8,711.4	9,045.7	9,129.5
72000 Travel	510.7	513.5	593.5
73000 Contractual	1,714.7	1,826.4	1,889.0
74000 Supplies	259.7	280.0	266.3
75000 Equipment	17.5	11.6	11.6
76000 Land/Buildings	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	11,214.0	11,677.2	11,889.9
Funding Sources:			
1004 General Fund Receipts	10,643.8	11,136.3	11,345.3
1007 Inter-Agency Receipts	39.0	60.3	61.5
1053 Investment Loss Trust Fund	49.4	0.0	0.0
1134 Fish & Game Duplicated Expenditures	481.8	480.6	483.1
Funding Totals	11,214.0	11,677.2	11,889.9

Estimated Revenue Collections

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2001 Actuals	FY2002 Authorized	FY2002 Cash Estimate	FY2003 Governor	FY2004 Forecast
Unrestricted Revenues						
None.		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unrestricted Total		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Restricted Revenues						
Interagency Receipts	51015	39.0	60.3	60.3	61.5	61.5
Fish and Game Fund	51045	481.8	480.6	480.6	483.1	483.1
Investment Loss Trust Fund	51393	49.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Restricted Total		570.2	540.9	540.9	544.6	544.6
Total Estimated Revenues		570.2	540.9	540.9	544.6	544.6

Enforcement and Investigative Services Unit

Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2003

The Division continues to operate at a minimally acceptable level of enforcement efforts with many areas of the state being unpatrolled or randomly patrolled at best. Any inflationary factors to be considered without additional dollars result in reduced program efforts. Presently,

- Since 1991, the state population has grown from 569,054 to 622,000, the equivalent of a larger city population.
- In FY1991, 380,872 resident and nonresident sporting licenses were sold in Alaska. In FY2001, 490,199 were sold,
- an increase of over 28% in 11 years.
- In the last decade, Trooper positions have remained essentially flat, and unable to keep pace with a growing state population and the hunting and fishing public.
- Each FWP field trooper has to cover over 7,325 square miles.

END RESULT

Many commercial fisheries, big game hunting areas, and sport fisheries receive little or no resource enforcement. Both commercial and sport fisheries resource demands are continuing to grow and this Division must keep pace with the growth. This can only be done through having adequate personnel and modern equipment, which will provide the Division the ability to provide necessary protection of the state's valuable resources.

VEHICLE FUEL PRICES

The intent of this Division is to maintain current level of services. In order to accomplish this, sufficient funds must exist to support needed vehicle patrol miles. Based on fuel prices experienced in FY2001 and continuing into FY2002, a funding increase is needed. Without funding, the current level of services will be reduced. This can only be accomplished by restricting the Department's vehicle miles, seriously impacting the Department's mission.

Summary of Component Budget Changes

From FY2002 Authorized to FY2003 Governor

All dollars in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2002 Authorized	11,136.3	0.0	540.9	11,677.2
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Transfer 12-3150, 12-3804, and funding to Aircraft Section for Safety Improvements - ADN 12-2-0058	-137.5	0.0	0.0	-137.5
-Year 3 Labor Costs - Net Change from FY2002	297.6	0.0	3.7	301.3
Proposed budget increases:				
-FWP Enforcement Fuel Related Cost Increases	48.9	0.0	0.0	48.9
FY2003 Governor	11,345.3	0.0	544.6	11,889.9

Enforcement and Investigative Services Unit**Personal Services Information**

Authorized Positions		Personal Services Costs		
	<u>FY2002</u>	<u>FY2003</u>		
	<u>Authorized</u>	<u>Governor</u>		
Full-time	112	110	Annual Salaries	6,171,402
Part-time	19	19	COLA	226,007
Nonpermanent	0	0	Premium Pay	682,410
			Annual Benefits	2,417,826
			<i>Less 3.88% Vacancy Factor</i>	(368,145)
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
Totals	131	129	Total Personal Services	9,129,500

Position Classification Summary

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Accounting Clerk II	1	0	0	0	1
Administrative Assistant	1	0	0	0	1
Administrative Clerk II	1	0	1	4	6
Administrative Clerk III	2	1	1	3	7
Captain PS	2	0	0	1	3
Criminal Justice Technician I	1	0	0	0	1
F&W Aide	3	2	2	21	28
Lieutenant PS	2	1	1	2	6
Mail Svcs Courier	1	0	0	0	1
Major PS	1	0	0	0	1
Micro/Network Tech I	1	0	0	0	1
Radio Dispatcher II	0	0	0	1	1
Sergeant PS	0	1	1	8	10
State Trooper	7	4	3	48	62
Totals	23	9	9	88	129